

Appln No. 10/785,416
Amendment/Response to OA, filed April 17, 2006
replying to the Office Action of November 16, 2005

PATENT
Customer No. 22,852
Attorney Docket No. 2418.0875-00

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated November 16, 2005, Applicants respectfully request the Office to enter the amendments set forth above and consider the following remarks. By this response, Applicants amend claims 1 and 3-18, cancel claims 2 and 19-25 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claim 26. After entry of this paper, claims 1, 3-18, and 26 will now be pending in this application.

In the Office Action the Examiner (i) rejected claims 9-11, 13, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §112 paragraph 2, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter; (ii) rejected claims 1, 3, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,663,515 to Pai ("Pai"); (iii) rejected claims 1, 6, 7, 14, 15, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,685,583 to Severa et al. ("Severa"); (iv) rejected claims 1 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,860,878 to You ("You"); (v) rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated over U.S. Patent No. 5,071,125 to Shen ("Shen"); (vi) rejected claims 6, 7, and 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pai in view of Shen; (vii) rejected claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pai; and (viii) indicated claims 4 and 16 recited allowable subject matter.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, Rejections

Claims 9-11, 13, 17, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, in that "the front dampening element" recitations lack antecedent basis. Applicants hereby amend claims 9-11, 13, 17, and 18 to depend from allowed claim 4, which recites antecedent basis for this recitation. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of claims 9-11, 13, 17, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are overcome.

Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite for allegedly failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants hereby amend claim 11 to remove the "preferably" language, and respectfully submit that the instant rejection is overcome.

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The deleted language has been recited in new claim 26; thus no new matter is presented with this new claim.

35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 Rejections

Claims 1, 3, and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Pai. Claims 1, 6, 7, 14, 15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Severa. Claims 1 and 17 stand rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by You. Claim 2 stands rejected under §102(b) as being anticipated by Shen. Claims 6, 7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatenable over Pai in view of Shen. Claims 8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Pai.

While respectfully disagreeing, in the interest of expediting prosecution and avoiding additional costs, Applicants hereby amend these claims as follows. Claims 4 and 16 have been reworded to include allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 3, 5-15, 17, 18, and 26 depend from claim 4. Thus, claims 1, 3, 5-15, 17, 18 and 26 are each allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 4. Claim 16 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and the intervening claim. Claims 2 and 19-25 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants therefore request that the Examiner withdraw the rejections and allow all pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention is allowable over the references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the entry of this Amendment, reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: April 17, 2006

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